

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

STR-04 CEA-01 /101 W

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P R 071055Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8501

INFO EC COLLECTIVE 11

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, EEC, UNGA, XF, NL

SUBJECT: EC-9 DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

1. IN THE COURSE OF DEBRIEFING TO EMBOFFS ON JULY 1-2  
POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING, POL DIR RUTTEN DESCRIBED  
GENERAL REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST AND LEBANON SITUATION IN PAR-  
TICULAR, WHICH HE SAID DID NOT LEAD TO ANY FINAL CONCLUSIONS.  
DISCUSSION, WHICH HE THOUGHT HAD BEEN USEFUL, REVEALED TWO  
SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT; SOME HAD BEEN RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC BUT  
OTHERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, BELIEVED THAT WITH ALL THE  
BITTERNESS ENGENDERED BY THE RECENT FIGHTING THE OUTLOOK  
THAT LEBANON COULD AGAIN FUNCTION AS A STATE WAS BLEAK.  
POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF  
CURRENT POLITICAL VACUUM. NEITHER ARAB LEAGUE NOR PLO WERE  
CONSIDERED LIKELY TO GAIN DOMINANT ROLE, THE FORMER BECAUSE  
OF INTERNAL DISAGREEMENTS AND THE LATTER BECAUSE THEY WOULD  
NOT BE ACCEPTED. SYRIA MIGHT TRY TO ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF  
A PROTECTORATE, THOUGH THIS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A  
STRONG ISRAELI REACTION AND WOULD NOT BE TO THE LIKING OF  
THE IRAQIS. RUTTEN ALSO MENTIONED THAT POLITICAL SITUATION  
IN DAMASCUS, AS IT RELATED TO ANY INITIATIVE BY ASAD, MIGHT  
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CONSTITUTE A HANDICAP TO SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON. RUTTEN

CONCLUDED THAT POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE MODERATION WITH WHICH ISRAEL HAD HANDLED THE LEBANESE SITUATION UNTIL NOW.

2. IN PREPARATION FOR UNGA, EC-9 WORKING GROUP WILL WORK OUT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WHAT VAN DER STOEL WILL SAY ON EC BEHALF TO UNGA, PROBABLY SEPTEMBER 29. THEIR MANDATE IS TO PREPARE AN EC POSITION NOT ONLY FOR USE IN UNGA BUT IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL. THE EC-9 POSITION WILL TRY TO DEFINE HOW THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINE PEOPLE CAN BE HARMONIZED WITH RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. RUTTEN FORESAW PROBLEM STEMMING FROM POSITION OF FRENCH, GERMANS, BRITISH AND ITALIANS ALL OF WHOM HAVE NOW GONE BEYOND 1973 EC POSITION ON STATUS OF PLO. POLITICAL DIRECTORS WILL FOCUS ON THIS SUBJECT AT THEIR MEETING SEPTEMBER 9-10.  
BROWN

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